

In the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A network conferencing system having an output electronic equipment for presenting the contents of a presentation, a plurality of attendant electronic equipment operated by users attending a conference, and a conference management server connected with the output electronic equipment and the attendant electronic equipment so as to transmit and receive information to and from the output electronic equipment and the attendant electronic equipment via a communication network,

each of the attendant electronic equipment comprising:

an information input/output unit for inputting and outputting information from and to the other attendant electronic equipment and the output electronic equipment via the conference management server;

a presentation unit for presenting the contents of a presentation by using the output electronic equipment;

a presentation contents browsing unit for browsing the contents of the presentation presented by the presentation unit of the other attendant electronic equipment using the output electronic equipment;

an authentication unit for carrying out authentication of attendance of each electronic equipment connected to the communication network, at a conference;

an equipment management unit for managing the state of each electronic equipment connected to the communication network;

a display unit for displaying, as icons, the other attendant electronic equipment and the electronic equipment managed by the equipment management unit, wherein the other attendant electronic equipment icons are displayed to visually identify whether each respective attendant electronic equipment has been authenticated by the authentication unit with their attendance authenticated by the authentication unit and the electronic equipment managed by the equipment management unit; and

a proceedings control unit for controlling preparation of the proceedings by using the contents of the presentation presented by the presentation unit,

wherein one of the authority to be a presenter terminal, the authority to be a chairman terminal and the authority to be an attendant terminal is acquired by each attendant electronic equipment.

2. (Currently Amended) A conference management server connected with an output electronic equipment for presenting the contents of a presentation and a plurality of attendant electronic equipment via a communication network, each of the attendant electronic equipment comprising an information input/output unit for inputting and outputting information from and to the other attendant electronic equipment and an output electronic equipment via the communication network, a presentation unit for presenting the contents of a presentation by using the output electronic equipment, a presentation contents browsing unit for browsing the contents of the presentation presented by the presentation unit of the other attendant electronic using the output electronic equipment, an authentication unit for carrying out authentication of attendance of the other attendant electronic equipment at a conference, an equipment management unit for managing the state of each electronic equipment connected to the communication network, a display unit for displaying, as icons, the other attendant electronic equipment and the electronic equipment managed by the equipment management unit, wherein the other attendant electronic equipment icons are displayed to visually identify whether each respective attendant electronic equipment has been authenticated by the authentication unit ~~with their attendance authenticated by the authentication unit and the electronic equipment managed by the equipment management unit~~, and a proceedings control unit for controlling preparation of the proceedings by using the contents of the presentation presented by the presentation unit,

wherein processing to give one of the authority to be a presenter terminal, the authority to be a chairman terminal, and the authority to be an attendant terminal is carried out on the basis of conference attendance requests from the attendant electronic equipment.

3. (Currently Amended) An attendant electronic equipment operated by a user attending a conference for transmitting and/or receiving information via a communication

network to and/or from a conference management server which is connected with an output electronic equipment for presenting the contents of a presentation and which transmits and/or receives information to and/or from the output electronic equipment via the communication network, the attendant electronic equipment comprising:

- an information input/output unit for inputting and outputting information from and to the other attendant electronic equipment and the output electronic equipment via the conference management server;

- a presentation unit for presenting the contents of a presentation by using the output electronic equipment;

- a presentation contents browsing unit for browsing the contents of the presentation presented by the presentation unit of the other attendant electronic equipment using the output electronic equipment;

- an authentication unit for carrying out authentication of attendance of each electronic equipment connected to the communication network, at a conference;

- an equipment management unit for managing the state of each electronic equipment connected to the communication network;

- a display unit for displaying, as icons, the other attendant electronic equipment and the electronic equipment managed by the equipment management unit, wherein the other attendant electronic equipment icons are displayed to visually identify whether each respective attendant electronic equipment has been authenticated by the authentication unit ~~with their attendance authenticated by the authentication unit and the electronic equipment managed by the equipment management unit;~~ and

- a proceedings control unit for controlling preparation of the proceedings by using the contents of the presentation presented by the presentation unit,

- wherein one of the authority to be a presenter terminal, the authority to be a chairman terminal, and the authority to be an attendant terminal is acquired by each attendant electronic equipment.

4. (Currently Amended) A network conferencing system having an output electronic equipment for presenting the contents of a presentation, a plurality of attendant electronic equipment operated by users attending a conference, and a conference

management server connected with the output electronic equipment and the attendant electronic equipment so as to transmit and receive information to and from the output electronic equipment and the attendant electronic equipment, via a communication network,

each of the attendant electronic equipment comprising an information input/output unit for inputting and outputting information from and to the other attendant electronic equipment and the output electronic equipment via the conference management server, a presentation unit for presenting the contents of a presentation by using the output electronic equipment, a presentation contents browsing unit for browsing the contents of the presentation presented by the presentation unit of the other attendant electronic equipment using the output electronic equipment, an authentication unit for carrying out authentication of attendance of the other electronic equipment at a conference, an equipment management unit for managing the state of each electronic equipment connected to the communication network, a display unit for displaying, as icons, the other attendant electronic equipment and the electronic equipment managed by the equipment management unit, wherein the other attendant electronic equipment icons are displayed to visually identify whether each respective attendant electronic equipment has been authenticated by the authentication unit ~~with their attendance authenticated by the authentication unit and the electronic equipment managed by the equipment management unit,~~ and a proceedings control unit for controlling preparation of the proceedings by using the contents of the presentation presented by the presentation unit, wherein when the authority to be a chairman terminal is provided,

the authentication unit obtains conference attendance requests including personal data related to the other attendant electronic equipment from the conference management server and prepares attendance permission information or attendance non-permission information for the other attendant electronic equipment in accordance with the operation by the user based on the personal data.

5. (Previously Presented) The network conferencing system as claimed in claim 4, wherein the authentication unit prepares attendance permission information which enables selection of icon displays of the other attendant electronic equipment permitted to

attend the conference, and attendance non-permission information which makes it impossible to select icon displays of the other attendant electronic equipment not permitted to attend the conference.

6. (Previously Presented) The network conferencing system as claimed in claim 4, wherein conference attendance requests including the personal information to request for attendance at the conference from the other attendant electronic equipment are inputted to the information input/output unit via the conference management server, and the authentication unit prepares attendance permission information for changing the display mode of the icon displays of the other electronic equipment when the attendance is permitted in accordance with the operation by the user, in response to the conference attendance requests inputted to the information input/output unit.

7. (Previously Presented) The network conferencing system as claimed in claim 4, wherein the display unit includes icon displays of the other attendant electronic equipment existing in the communication network, in a first screen area, and includes icon displays of the other attendant electronic equipment existing outside the communication network, in a second screen area.

8. (Previously Presented) The network conferencing system as claimed in claim 7, wherein the display unit displays location attribute information indicating the presence of each of the electronic equipment in the communication network, in the first screen area, and displays location attribute information indicating the presence of each of the electronic equipment outside the communication network, in the second screen area.

9. (Previously Presented) The network conferencing system as claimed in claim 4, wherein conference leaving requests to request for leaving the conference from the other attendant electronic equipment are input to the information input/output unit via the conference management server, and

the display unit changes the display mode of icon displays related to the other attendant electronic equipment which output the conference leaving requests, in response to the conference leaving requests input to the information input/output unit.

10-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A conference management server connected with an output electronic equipment for presenting the contents of a presentation and a plurality of attendant electronic equipment via a communication network, each of the attendant electronic equipment comprising an information input/output unit for inputting and outputting information from and to the other attendant electronic equipment and the output electronic equipment via the communication network, a presentation unit for presenting the contents of the presentation by using the output electronic equipment, a presentation contents browsing unit for browsing the contents of the presentation presented by the presentation unit of the other attendant electronic equipment using the output electronic equipment, an authentication unit for carrying out authentication of attendance of the other attendant electronic equipment at a conference, an equipment management unit for managing the state of each electronic equipment connected to the communication network, a display unit for displaying, as icons, the other attendant electronic equipment and the electronic equipment managed by the equipment management unit, wherein the other attendant electronic equipment icons are displayed to visually identify whether each respective attendant electronic equipment has been authenticated by the authentication unit ~~with their attendance authenticated by the authentication unit and the electronic equipment managed by the equipment management unit,~~ and a proceedings control unit for controlling preparation of the proceedings by using the contents of the presentation presented by the presentation unit, the conference management server comprising:

input/output means for outputting a conference attendance request including personal data related to the attendant electronic equipment from the attendant electronic equipment to the other attendant electronic equipment, and inputting the result of attendance authentication in accordance with the conference attendance request; and

attendance management means for preparing an attendance information file for managing the plurality of attendant electronic equipment attending a conference by using the personal data and the result of attendance authentication obtained by the input/output means, and preparing attendant equipment display information for displaying, as an icon, the personal data of each attendant electronic equipment managed as the attendance information file in accordance with the result of attendance authentication.

17. (Previously Presented) The conference management server as claimed in claim 16, wherein the attendance management means updates the contents of the attendance information file on the basis of attendance permission information or attendance non-permission information from the attendant electronic equipment having the authority as a chairman terminal having the information input/output unit, the authentication unit, the equipment management unit, the display unit and the proceedings control unit.

18. (Original) The conference management server as claimed in claim 16, wherein the attendance management means outputs the prepared attendant equipment display information to the attendant electronic equipment connected with the communication network.

19. (Previously Presented) The conference management server as claimed in claim 17, wherein the attendance management means prepares attendant equipment display information which enables selection of icon displays of the other attendant electronic equipment permitted to attend the conference on the basis of the attendance permission information and which makes it impossible to select icon displays of the other attendant electronic equipment not permitted to attend the conference on the basis of the attendance non-permission information.

20. (Previously Presented) The conference management server as claimed in claim 17, wherein the attendance management means is supplied with conference attendance requests including the personal data to request for attendance at the

conference from the other attendant electronic equipment, and prepares attendant equipment display information for changing the display mode of icon displays on the basis of the attendance permission information from the chairman terminal in accordance with the conference attendance requests.

21. (Previously Presented) The conference management server as claimed in claim 16, wherein the attendance management means prepares attendant equipment display information including icon displays of the other attendant electronic equipment existing in the communication network, in a first screen area, and including icon displays of the other attendant electronic equipment existing outside the communication network, in a second screen area.

22. (Previously Presented) The conference management server as claimed in claim 16, wherein the attendance management means prepares attendant equipment display information for displaying location attribute information indicating the presence of each of the electronic equipment in the communication network, in the first screen area, and displaying location attribute information indicating the presence of each of the electronic equipment outside the communication network, in the second screen area.

23. (Previously Presented) The conference management server as claimed in claim 16, wherein the attendance management means prepares attendant equipment display information for changing the display mode of icon displays related to the other attendant electronic equipment which output conference leaving requests in response to input of the conference leaving requests to request for leaving the conference from the other attendant electronic equipment.

24. (Currently Amended) An attendance authentication method for a conference management server connected with an output electronic equipment for presenting the contents of a presentation and a plurality of attendant electronic equipment via a communication network, each of the attendant electronic equipment comprising an information input/output unit for inputting and outputting information from and to the

other attendant electronic equipment and the output electronic equipment via the communication network, a presentation unit for presenting the contents of the presentation by using the output electronic equipment, a presentation contents browsing unit for browsing the contents of the presentation presented by the presentation unit of the other attendant electronic equipment using the output electronic equipment, an authentication unit for carrying out authentication of attendance of the other attendant electronic equipment at a conference, an equipment management unit for managing the state of each electronic equipment connected to the communication network, a display unit for displaying, as icons, the other attendant electronic equipment and the electronic equipment managed by the equipment management unit, wherein the other attendant electronic equipment icons are displayed to visually identify whether each respective attendant electronic equipment has been authenticated by the authentication unit with their attendance authenticated by the authentication unit and the electronic equipment managed by the equipment management unit, and a proceedings control unit for controlling preparation of the proceedings by using the contents of the presentation presented by the presentation unit, the method comprising the steps of:

- inputting a conference attendance request including personal data related to the attendant electronic equipment from the attendant electronic equipment;

- outputting the conference attendance request to the other attendant electronic equipment;

- inputting the result of attendance authentication in accordance with the conference attendance request;

- preparing an attendance information file for managing the plurality of attendant electronic equipment attending a conference by using the personal data and the result of attendance authentication; and

- preparing attendant equipment display information for displaying, as an icon, the personal data of each attendant electronic equipment managed as the attendance information file in accordance with the result of attendance authentication.

25. (Previously Presented) The attendance authentication method as claimed in claim 24, wherein attendance permission information or attendance non-permission

information from the attendant electronic equipment having the authority as a chairman terminal having the information input/output unit, the authentication unit, the equipment management unit, the display unit and the proceedings control unit is inputted, and the contents of the attendance information file are updated.

26. (Original) The attendance authentication method as claimed in claim 24, wherein the prepared attendant equipment display information is outputted to the attendant electronic equipment connected with the communication network.

27. (Previously Presented) The attendance authentication method as claimed in claim 25, wherein attendant equipment display information which enables selection of icon displays of the other attendant electronic equipment permitted to attend the conference on the basis of the attendance permission information from the chairman terminal and which makes it impossible to select icon displays of the other attendant electronic equipment not permitted to attend the conference on the basis of the attendance non-permission information is prepared.

28. (Previously Presented) The attendance authentication method as claimed in claim 25, wherein conference attendance requests including the personal data to request for attendance at the conference from the other attendant electronic equipment are inputted, and

attendant equipment display information for changing the display mode of icon displays is prepared on the basis of the attendance permission information from the chairman terminal in accordance with the conference attendance requests.

29. (Previously Presented) The attendance authentication method as claimed in claim 24, wherein attendant equipment display information including icon displays of the other attendant electronic equipment existing within the communication network, in a first screen area, and including icon displays of the other attendant electronic equipment existing outside the communication network, in a second screen area, is prepared.

30. (Original) The attendance authentication method as claimed in claim 24, wherein attendant equipment display information for displaying location attribute information indicating the presence within the communication network, in the first screen area, and displaying location attribute information indicating the presence outside the communication network, in the second screen area, is prepared.

31. (Previously Presented) The attendance authentication method as claimed in claim 24, wherein conference leaving requests to request for leaving the conference from the other attendant electronic equipment are input, and

attendant equipment display information for changing the display mode of icon displays related to the other attendant electronic equipment which output conference leaving requests is prepared.

32. (Currently Amended) An attendant electronic equipment operated by a user attending a conference for transmitting and/or receiving information via a communication network to and/or from a conference management server which is connected with an output electronic equipment for presenting the contents of a presentation and which transmits and/or receives information to and/or from the output electronic equipment via the communication network, the attendant electronic equipment comprising

an information input/output unit for inputting and outputting information from and to the other attendant electronic equipment and the output electronic equipment via the conference management server, a presentation unit for presenting the contents of the presentation by using the output electronic equipment, a presentation contents browsing unit for browsing the contents of the presentation presented by the presentation unit of the other attendant electronic equipment using the output electronic equipment, an authentication unit for carrying out authentication of attendance of the other electronic equipment at a conference, an equipment management unit for managing the state of each electronic equipment connected to the communication network, a display unit for displaying, as icons, the other attendant electronic equipment and the electronic equipment managed by the equipment management unit, wherein the other attendant electronic equipment icons are displayed to visually identify whether each respective

~~attendant electronic equipment has been authenticated by the authentication unit with their attendance authenticated by the authentication unit and the electronic equipment managed by the equipment management unit,~~ and a proceedings control unit for controlling preparation of the proceedings by using the contents of the presentation presented by the presentation unit,

wherein when the authority to be a chairman terminal having the information input/output unit, the authentication unit, the equipment management unit, the display unit and the proceedings control unit is provided,

the authentication unit obtains conference attendance requests including personal data related to the other attendant electronic equipment from the conference management server and prepares attendance permission information or attendance non-permission information for the other attendant electronic equipment in accordance with the operation by the user based on the personal data.

33. (Currently Amended) A network conferencing system having an output electronic equipment for presenting the contents of a presentation, a plurality of attendant electronic equipment operated by users attending a conference, and a conference management server connected with the output electronic equipment and the attendant electronic equipment so as to transmit and receive information to and from the output electronic equipment and the attendant electronic equipment via a communication network wherein in the network conferencing system,

each of the attendant electronic equipment comprises an information input/output unit for inputting and outputting information from and to the other attendant electronic equipment and the output electronic equipment via the communication network, a presentation unit for presenting the contents of the presentation by using the output electronic equipment, a presentation contents browsing unit for browsing the contents of the presentation presented by the presentation of the other attendant electronic equipment using the output electronic equipment, an authentication unit for carrying out authentication of attendance of the other electronic equipment at a conference, an equipment management unit for managing the state of each electronic equipment connected to the communication network, a display unit for displaying, as icons, the other

attendant electronic equipment and the electronic equipment managed by the equipment management unit, wherein the other attendant electronic equipment icons are displayed to visually identify whether each respective attendant electronic equipment has been authenticated by the authentication unit ~~with their attendance authenticated by the authentication unit and the electronic equipment managed by the equipment management unit~~, and a proceedings control unit for controlling preparation of the proceedings by using the contents of the presentation presented by the presentation unit,

wherein when the presentation unit transfers the contents of the presentation to the output electronic equipment or the attendant electronic equipment via the conference management server, the contents of the presentation and supplementary contents related to the contents of the presentation are displayed by the display unit.

34. (Previously Presented) The network conferencing system as claimed in claim 33, wherein the presentation unit transfers only the data related to the contents of the presentation to the output electronic equipment or the attendant electronic equipment.

35. (Currently Amended) A presentation method for a network conferencing system having an output electronic equipment for presenting the contents of a presentation, a plurality of attendant electronic equipment operated by users attending a conference, and a conference management server connected with the output electronic equipment and the attendant electronic equipment so as to transmit and receive information to and from the output electronic equipment and the attendant electronic equipment via a communication network, each of the attendant electronic equipment comprising an information input/output unit for inputting and outputting information from and to the other attendant electronic equipment and the output electronic equipment via the communication network, a presentation unit for presenting the contents of the presentation by using the output electronic equipment, a presentation contents browsing unit for browsing the contents of the presentation presented by the presentation unit of the other attendant electronic equipment using the output electronic equipment, an authentication unit for carrying out authentication of attendance of the other electronic equipment at a conference, an equipment management unit for managing the state of each

electronic equipment connected to the communication network, a display unit for displaying, as icons, the other attendant electronic equipment and the electronic equipment managed by the equipment management unit, wherein the other attendant electronic equipment icons are displayed to visually identify whether each respective attendant electronic equipment has been authenticated by the authentication unit with their attendance authenticated by the authentication unit and the electronic equipment managed by the equipment management unit, and a proceedings control unit for controlling preparation of the proceedings by using the contents of the presentation presented by the presentation unit,

wherein when transferring the contents of the presentation to the output electronic equipment or the attendant electronic equipment via the conference management server by the presentation unit,

the contents of the presentation and supplementary contents related to the contents of the presentation are displayed by the display unit.

36. (Previously Presented) The presentation method as claimed in claim 35, wherein only the data related to the contents of the presentation is transferred to the output electronic equipment or the attendant electronic equipment.

37. (Currently Amended) An attendant electronic equipment operated by a user attending a conference for transmitting and/or receiving information via a communication network to and/or from a conference management server which is connected with an output electronic equipment for presenting the contents of a presentation and which transmits and/or receives information to and/or from the output electronic equipment via the communication network, the attendant electronic equipment comprising

an information input/output unit for inputting and outputting information from and to the other attendant electronic equipment and the output electronic equipment via the communication network, a presentation unit for presenting the contents of the presentation by using the output electronic equipment, a presentation contents browsing unit for browsing the contents of the presentation presented by the presentation unit of the other attendant electronic equipment using the output electronic equipment, an

authentication unit for carrying out authentication of attendance of the other electronic equipment at a conference, an equipment management unit for managing the state of each electronic equipment connected to the communication network, a display unit for displaying, as icons, the other attendant electronic equipment and the electronic equipment managed by the equipment management unit, wherein the other attendant electronic equipment icons are displayed to visually identify whether each respective attendant electronic equipment has been authenticated by the authentication unit with ~~their attendance authenticated by the authentication unit and the electronic equipment managed by the equipment management unit~~, and a proceedings control unit for controlling preparation of the proceedings by using the contents of the presentation presented by the presentation unit,

wherein when the presentation unit transfers the contents of the presentation to the output electronic equipment or the attendant electronic equipment via the conference management server, the contents of the presentation and supplementary contents related to the contents of the presentation are displayed by the display unit.